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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT NOON BRIEFING - JANUARY 5, 1978

ADVANCED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FOR SAUDI ARABIA

Q. Is there an update on the F-15 guidance in light of the President's trip?

A. The sopkesman's comments are valid.

Q. Has the U.S. told the Saudis it would prefer that the Saudis purchase the F-16?

A. We have nothing to say beyond the spokesman's comments.

Q. Is the F-15 under consideration by the Saudis?

A. The spokesman said, "the Saudis, after a thorough study of the various alternatives chose the F-15."

Q. When did the U.S. make the decision to provide advanced fighter aircraft to the Saudis?

A. As the spokesman noted, this Administration agrees with the previous Administration that Saudi Arabia has a legitimate need for an advanced fighter aircraft. No decision has been made on when Congress might be consulted on a possible sale.

NEA/P:REUndeland:trt
1/6/78

Clearances: NEA - Mr. Sober
NEA/ARP - Mr. Twir